

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-23 are now pending. Applicants have amended claim 1 and claim 15 to include the subject matter of claim 2. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter and only was objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. The same limitation of claim 2 has been added to claim 15. It is believed that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional application(s). Applicants have carefully considered the points raised in the Office Action and believe that the Examiner's concerns have been addressed as described herein, thereby placing this case into condition for allowance.

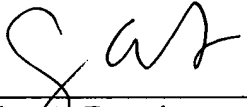
The rejection of claims 1, 5-11, 13, 15, 16, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Margaron continues to be traversed. In order to advance prosecution, however, the claims have been amended to place them in condition for allowance. Thus, this rejection may be properly withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 273012013101. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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